

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-24, 26-29 and 31-34 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claim 23 has been cancelled herein as shown on pages 2-8 of the Reply. Applicant's representative acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-22, 24, 26-29 and 31-34 are allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of the cited reference should be withdrawn as this rejection is believed to be moot in light of the cancellation of claim 23. Given these amendments, favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

**CONCLUSION**

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP230US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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